



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

August 2, 2011

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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum provides an update on County-sponsored legislation related to the County's Homeowner Notification Program; the status on three County-advocacy measures regarding: 1) electronic filing of Statements of Economic Interest; 2) mandatory solid waste diversion; and 3) membership of personnel or merit commissions; legislation of County-interest related to the realignment of public safety programs; and a report on a hearing conducted in Los Angeles by the Assembly Select Committee on Homelessness.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

County-sponsored SB 62 (Liu), which would enhance the County's Homeowner Notification Program to authorize the County to: 1) notify homeowners and renters subject to notices of default or sale; 2) collect a fee for notification upon the recording of a notice of default or sale; and 3) use a portion of the recording fee to provide information, counseling or assistance to a person who receives the notice, was signed by Governor Brown on August 1, 2011 and it is Chapter 141, Statutes of 2011. This measure becomes effective January 1, 2012.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-supported AB 182 (Davis), which would extend the existing pilot program authorizing the counties of Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Santa Clara, Stanislaus and

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Ventura and the City of Long Beach to permit the electronic filing of Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700) from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, was signed by Governor Brown on July 25, 2011 and it is Chapter 96, Statutes of 2011.

County-opposed AB 341 (Chesbro), which would: 1) increase the mandatory solid waste diversion rate from 50.0 percent to 75.0 percent by January 1, 2020; 2) require the owner or operator of a business that contracts for waste services and generates more than four cubic yards of total waste and recyclable materials per week, to arrange for recycling services; and 3) require enforcement agencies to inform solid waste facility operators that it is requiring a revision in the solid waste facility permit in conjunction with allowing changes in the design or operation of a facility, was amended on July 7, 2011.

According to the Department of Public Works, while the amended bill proposes to place the responsibility for achieving 75.0 percent statewide diversion rate on CalRecycle, the State agency cannot achieve it without imposing mandates on cities and counties through regulation. **Therefore, the Sacramento advocates will continue to oppose AB 341.** The measure is set for a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 15, 2011.

County-opposed AB 455 (Campos), which would have required one-half of the members of local personnel or merit commissions to be appointed by the governing board of the public agency and the other half to be selected from a list provided by the largest recognized employee organization, was vetoed by Governor Brown on July 25, 2011.

In his veto message, the Governor noted that AB 455 would impose a level of State control that is inconsistent with his efforts to realign State services and to increase local control. He further noted that concerns related to specific commissions should be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the local level.

Legislation of County-Interest

AB 116 (Committee on Budget), which makes various technical changes to the provisions of SB 92 and AB 117, was signed by Governor Brown on July 27, 2011. In June, the Legislature passed SB 92 (Chapter 36 of 2011) which eliminated the California Council on Criminal Justice and assigned its powers and duties to the Board of State and Community Corrections. Additionally, the Legislature passed AB 117 (Chapter 39 of 2011) which makes technical changes to provisions of AB 109 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2011), which established the framework for the realignment of certain low-level offenders, adult parolees, and juvenile offenders from State to counties.

AB 116 makes additional substantive and technical changes relevant to the realignment of public safety programs. Listed below are the key changes:

- Restores the California Council on Criminal Justice and delays its elimination and the assignment of its powers and duties to the Board of State and Community Corrections until July 1, 2012.
- Maintains that parole revocations will be handled by the State Board of Parole until July 1, 2013, to reflect the additional time needed by courts to take over this function at the local level.
- Makes July 1, 2012 the operative date the Corrections Standards Authority will be responsible for developing, approving, and monitoring standards for the selection and training of State correctional peace officers and apprentices.
- Makes certain provisions related to Community Corrections Performance Incentives funds and local Community Corrections Partnerships, as amended by AB 117 of 2011, operative on July 1, 2012.
- Provides clarification and narrows a judge's ability to order a sentence in cases where a felony is punishable pursuant to the certain provisions where the term is not specified in the underlying offense.

This bill would take effect immediately as it provides for appropriations related to the Budget Bill.

Assembly Select Committee on Homelessness Hearing

On July 27, 2011, the Assembly Select Committee on Homelessness conducted a hearing in Los Angeles, entitled *The Road Home for Youth, Women and Family Homeless Sub-Populations*. The Assembly Select Committee is tasked with providing a full review of programs and proposed policies on how to improve efficiencies and service delivery to the homeless or individuals at risk of becoming homeless, and examining various proposals for a permanent source of funding to end homelessness, including the utilization of Federal funds. The hearing was the third of four hearings to be held throughout the State. The final hearing is scheduled for October 2011 in Sacramento.

Present at the hearing were Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez, Assembly Members Toni Atkins (Chair, Assembly Select Committee on Homelessness), Betsy Butler,

Holly J. Mitchell, Mariko Yamada, Paul Fong, Paul Cook and State Senator Bill Emmerson.

Assembly Speaker Pérez provided opening remarks in which he expressed concerns regarding the potential risk of homelessness faced by lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered youth and the need for readily available support and services. Committee Chair Atkins characterized the hearing as an open dialogue with the Legislature and the public about homelessness and all the issues surrounding this crisis, noting that the mortgage meltdown and recession have made the situation much more problematic and significantly more difficult for the State to meet the need.

The Committee heard presentations by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Chief Executive Office's Homeless Services Unit, and the City of Los Angeles Housing Department. In addition, various community experts provided an overview of the partnerships to address homelessness in the Los Angeles region. This was followed by a panel discussion which presented data and concerns, including an overview of homeless sub-populations in Los Angeles.

Recommendations

Suggestions of interest offered by the hearing participants to the Select Committee included:

- Require the State Treasury and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, which administers the Federal and State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Programs, to prioritize funding based on the highest levels of homelessness and include supportive housing as eligible funding category.
- Allow Mental Health Services Act of 2004 funds to be used for rental housing or capital improvements, realign mental health services, and incorporate integrated services to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses.
- Ensure that Redevelopment agencies that opt-in to the Alternative Voluntary Redevelopment Program do not defund housing programs.
- Adjust the Housing and Urban Development Program funding formula, which generally disadvantages western states, such as California, and streamline funding to prioritize services for the most vulnerable.
- Improve access to identification documents for homeless individuals and families.

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- Require cities to establish homeless counts, and to align goals, collect and share data and develop outreach to address NIMBYISM (not in my backyard).

After testimony concluded, the Committee members provided closing remarks in which they expressed encouragement with local efforts to address homelessness in the Los Angeles area, and noted that the task of eliminating homelessness is daunting and difficult.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:sb

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
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California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
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City Managers Associations
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